(*b*) whether the Government are aware that vast area of lands can be made use of to produce more crops by bunding up the Chalakkudy river on irrigational basis and also by bunding and reclaiming shallow back-waters on coastal area?

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):* (*a*) Development of Agriculture is a very wide subject. The entire work done by the Agricultural Department including Research Experiment, Demonstration and Propaganda is based on a definite scheme with the object of developing agriculture in the State.

In view of the present food scarcity Government are undertaking a number of schemes for increasing food production in the State. These schemes consist of new irrigation schemes, extension of cultivation by means of lift irrigation, bringing new areas of Reserve forests under cultivation along the Chalakkudy—Anamalai Road, intensification of cultivation by heavy manuring issue of improved seeds in the existing paddy areas, and the revival of the tapioca and vegetable production schemes.

(*b*) The bunding of the Chalakkudy river can be undertaken only with the consent and collaboration of the Travancore Government.

As regards bunding and reclaiming of shallow backwaters in the coastal area, the matter is under investigation.

ADVISORY BOARD FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY—APPOINTMENT OF

165. **Mr. M. O. Thomakutty** *(Commerce and Industry):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) do the Government know that the Government of India intend to constitute an Advisory Board to consider ways and means for the development of trade and industry in India;

(*b*) do the Cochin Government propose to appoint any such Advisory Board?

Rao Bahadur T. K. Nayar *(Prime Minister):* (*a*) No.

(*b*) At present there are two advisory bodies which serve the purpose, *viz.*, the Industrial Advisory Board and the Advisory Committee on Industries and Commerce including Forests Public Works and Fisheries. As such, there is no proposal now to appoint further advisory bodies in this matter.

(2) (a) STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT REGARDING A SHORT-NOTICE QUESTION

Mr. President: A short-notice question has been received from Mr. P. A. Mohamed Ashrof. It is not that the question is being answered now. With regard to the question, I want to inform the Hon'ble Members that he puts forward a suggestion that printed questions and answers may be given to every member on the previous day. It is a very good idea, no doubt, but the difficulty is that these questions and answers are printed and received back from the Press usually very late in the evening.

Mr.P.Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* It is shameful.

Mr. President: Shameful it may be. It is a fact that the officials are supplied with these questions and answers in the evening itself if, of course, they are received in the evening. But sometimes they are received in the morning only. That being the case, it will not be practicable always to see that today's questions and answers are distributed to all the members yesterday evening. It is a very diffiucult proposition. So, if any Hon'ble Member is desirous of having a copy of the questions and answers that have to come the next day, he may take it from the office if they have come there, but as I mentioned, sometimes they are received very late in the evening, sometimes even at midnight and sometimes the same morning and so on. If the Hon'ble Members are desirous to have a copy, they can get it from the office in case it is there.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. എ. മുഹമ്മദ് അഷ്റഫ്: സാധാരണ ഇവിടെ ക്വിഷ്ച്ചൻ മെമ്പർമാർക്ക് അതിന്റെ copy കൊടുക്കുന്നതായിട്ടാണ് കാണുന്നത്.

Mr. President: My statement contains all that. If any Hon'ble Member finds that it is ready, he may go to the office and get it.

Mr. M. K. Raja *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Since you have adverted to this question, Sir, may I point out one aspect of the matter? Personally every one would welcome the idea of the questions and answers being put into our hands the even ing previous to the day on which they are actually put in the Council. But if that practice is followed, is there not the danger that some of the questions may leak out and even go to the Press before they are actually put in the Council? I submit that this aspect also will have to be seriously considered by you because I

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[Mr. M. K. Raja]

think it will be derogatory to the dignity of the House if questions appear in the Press before they are asked in this House.

Mr. P. A. Mohamed Ashrof *(Cranganur):* That suggestion of the Hon'ble Member questions the responsibility of the non-official members of this House. I do not think any non-official member of this House will do an irresponsible act like that.

Mr. President: In the light of what Mr. M. K Raja said that it is likely to go to the Press, I think if the Press can come to an understanding by which the Press does not publish these questions unless and until they are put here, if the Press can come to that understanding, I, on my part, deem it necessary that the Hon'ble Members be in possession of the questions before they are put, in the morning. But as the Hon'ble Member has suggested it may leak out to the Press. If the Press would act with a sense of responsibility—I hope they will—at least the matter could be experimented for some time.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* May I know the practice elsewhere.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* There are different practices.

Mr. President: In these matters I suppose it is not necessary to follow the practice elsewhere. We may look to our convenience and act upon it. But the danger pointed out by the Hon'ble Member is certainly very serious because it is with some amount of regret that I have noted that resolutions, sent to the Council, even before they reach the Secretary to the Council, are seen in the Press. There is no guarantee whether these resolutions are going to be admitted or not. So in such cases, as I said, the Press resorts to such things, namely publishing resolutions before they are admitted, or before they are balloted. Questions also are seen published in the Press, before they actually reach the Council office. In the light of that, I may say, that if the Press can come to an understanding like this, it will be much better.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Constitutional Adviser):* Without committing myself to the policy of the Government on this matter I may point out that, the point raised by Mr. Raja is really a pertinent one and my purpose is to point out that the proceedings of this House is subject to the control of the Hon'ble President. Therefore apart from the good-will of anybody, if the Hon'ble President rules that questions and answers which are not answered on the floor of this House are not to be published in any of the papers, I think it will serve the purpose, because, the Hon'ble President has got the power to regulate the publication of the proceedings of this House according to the practice obtaining in the House of Commons. And I am sure, the Press will co-operate and if the Hon'ble Chair is going to give that ruling, it may be relied upon.

Mr. M. K. Raja *(Mulakunnathukavu):* It is necessary to prevent premature publication of the questions in the Press even before they are answered in the Council. If this procedure is followed that is more or less definate and the public will come to know of the questions before the Council knows about them. That will affect the dignity of the House. Therefore if the Press can give an assurance that there will not be prior publication, I think that the practice that has been suggested can be followed.

I had sent up 2 short-notice questions to the office, I believe, on Monday. I would like to know whether the Government have accepted them or not.

Mr. President: I have some recollection that I saw them.

Mr. M. K. Raja *(Mulakunnathukavu):* I would like to know whether my questions have been admitted and whether the Government will be willing to answer them.

(b) POINT OF ORDER

Mr.P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* On a point of order, Sir, whether the point of enquiry is not a first-class subject for a point of order, namely that the point of enquiry cannot be answered in the light of the wisdom that was thrown out by none else a person than a prospective Minister of the State.

Rao Bahadur T. K. Nayar *(Prime Minister):* With regard to the publication of the questions on the previous day, I understand that the question was examined several times before and several previous Presidents gave various directions and if I remember aright, in olden days we used to get those answers only a few minutes before they are put.

Mr. President: Standing order says one hour before.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* That has later on improved.

Rao Bahadur T. K. Nayar *(Prime Minister):* Although, while I was there, myself and my friends were agitating for getting these questions earlier?

Mr. President: That is at what time.

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